

36983005240366



Sheffield TIMES

Profile: DeVries
Building Supply,
page 18

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol.VIII, Issue 3 Jan/Feb. 2009

SHEFFIELD ECONOMY: NOT SO BAD, CONSIDERING

The worldwide financial chill is making some Sheffield businesses shiver, but many are doing okay for now, an informal survey of town businesses shows.

Real estate isn't selling the way it was a few years ago, but "things are selling if they're priced right," says Sandra Preston of Sandra Preston Real Estate. She herself had a "fabulous" year in 2008 but thinks the first half of 2009 will be on the slow side.

"The lower-priced properties, those \$300,000 and less, are moving," Pat Igoe of Country Property Associates says. She says that interest in investment properties such as multi-family dwellings, already noticeable in the northern and central parts of Berkshire County, has been starting to show up in South County as well. "It's quiet not only because of the season but because people are being cautious," she said. "We're hoping spring will bring a change."

Some contractors are seeing new jobs slack off, and new work tends to be repairs and renovations, not new construction. "It's definitely slower than in the last five years," says Pat Carlson of Carlson Heating & Air Conditioning. "You used to be able to pick your jobs." She's heard of people who have lost their jobs, and they pay their propane bills when they can. But she's philosophical. Slowdowns in the construction trades "have happened before and will happen again," she said.

Jim Cavanaugh, of MT Cavanaugh, a plumbing business that just opened a new facility in Sheffield on Rt. 7, sees people being more cautious, but his company is

still extremely busy with new construction and service calls. When the price of fuel spiked last summer, his business was "crazy busy," he said, with crews running around giving advice on how to save on heating costs. "Gas coming down has helped us a lot," he said, since his company keeps 10 vehicles on the road.

Cavanaugh went on to say that the area from Lenox south to Lakeville and Salisbury in Connecticut, and from Hillsdale and Copake east to New Marlborough was late to see any impact from the overall economic downturn, and

he thinks it will get over it quicker. "We live in a unique part of the world," he said.

Local inns we contacted haven't noticed much impact. "So far, business has been just as strong," said Ali Winston of Staveleigh House, in the center of Sheffield.

David Rothstein of Race Brook Lodge on Undermountain Rd. sees "no radical change" in his inn business. The number of tourists is down at Race Brook Lodge, he says, but the number of reunions and workshops is up. He says that business has been more affected by the increase in

Continued on page 10

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS; NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE STARTS WORK

Nearly 85 percent of the town's 2,176 registered voters took part in the elections in November. Sheffield voted for Barack Obama over John McCain, 1,375 to 452.

In State contests, Sheffield voters rejected Massachusetts ballot Question 1, which would have repealed the State income tax. They voted yes on Question 2, which decriminalizes small amounts of marijuana, and on Question 3, which makes dog racing illegal.

In the first election for members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, positions in some of the towns were uncontested. In Sheffield, six people ran for the four seats. The results were: Catherine Miller, 1,224; Andy Fetterhoff, 752; Dennis Sears, 731; Vito Valentini, 707; Jack Pollitt, 667, and Scott Sanes, 622.

The new School Committee has had two regular meetings and several sub-

committee meetings since the election. The current focus is on the district's educational program and the budget, always a difficult process and likely to be especially hard as state and town budgets are pinched by the recession. The committee will also have to deal with collective bargaining in 2009, when current teacher contracts expire.

Miller, who has served on the School Committee in the past, says she finds that things are moving forward well, with a positive attitude.

Vito Valentini says, "If there is any single thing that stands out for me, it is the interest and genuine passion for success of our schools that this committee has." He says "we are a good team" with a "strong spirit of cooperation," which will be needed as the committee faces the perennial problem of rising costs and stagnant revenues.

In This Issue

Community

Bernstein studio	3
Bow Wow Rd. farmland	4
Covered Bridge access, parking area	5
Church news	6

Library

Good year	8
Recommended reading, programs	9

Village Green

Senior Center news	11
Town Clerk's office	12
Assessors & collector's	12
Board of Selectmen meeting minutes	13
Town Hall news	15
Zoning Board of Appeals	16

Organizations & Businesses

Profile: DeVries Building Supply	18
----------------------------------	----

Kiwanis, Historical Society	19
Bartholomew's Cobble	20
The Nature Conservancy	21
Sheffield Tree Project	22

Data

Fire log	22
Real estate transfers	22

Calendar Page

23

Advertise in a hometown paper!

The Sheffield Times
accepts advertisements from...

- Sheffield businesses
- Sheffield residents
- Regional businesses
that benefit Sheffield

No editorial or political advertisements

Contact Tara White
at 229-7754 or
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com
for rates and information

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ricky Bernstein is a visual artist who has made Sheffield his home for the past 15 years along with his wife, Elisabeth Cary, and daughters, Sophie and Willa. His wife grew up in town, and the couple settled on a piece of land part of the way up Cooper Hill. Ricky makes full-sized figurative sculptures—big cartoons—from glass and aluminum. His artwork is represented in major museum collections throughout the U.S. and Europe. The couple also maintains a small fashion jewelry business under the studio name Penrose Design, using hand-blown glass beads as the main components of the work. [See related story p. 3]

Below: Ricky with "Voila," one of his works. To see more, go to www.rickybernstein.com.



Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA

Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott

Library Editor: Fred Gordon

Layout: Andrea Scott

Advertising Sales: Tara White

Distribution: Inez Flinn. Staff: Sandy
& Dale Alden, Kathie Dean, Rae East-
man, Gillian Hettinger, Ellen Rowntree,
Peter Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ellen
Weiss, Barbara West, John Wightman

Published by
The Sheffield Association
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257

Working since 2001 to foster communication
among the people, businesses, and organizations
of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

*Photo credits: Ricky Bernstein, pages 2 & 3; Kathy
Orlando, 4, 11, 22; Andrea Scott, 5, 8, 12; John
Wightman, 6; Marcia Brolli, 7; Gary Schumer, 18,
Tammis Coffin, 20 & 21.*

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUBMIT ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, PHOTOS OR ILLUSTRATIONS. Have an idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Have a new business venture? Let us know! Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. For feature stories, please run suggestions by the editors first.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENTS. Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

ADVERTISE. We accept ads for services and products connected with Sheffield. Eighth-pages to half-pages available. Contact Tara White at 229-7754 or email sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com for rates or more information.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. Most of our advertisers are local. Tell them you read about them here.

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and you get the *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the coupon on page 27.

Sheffield Times
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257
E-mail: sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

**March/April issue
deadline:
FEBRUARY 15**

THE COMMUNITY REACHES OUT AND BUILDS A NEW STUDIO

Outside our kitchen window, it's miraculous to see a modest barn-like building, not quite fully sided but buttoned up for winter. A month ago the site was vacant, with little more than a concrete pad left after my studio on Silver St. burned down on Oct. 8.

As a visual artist, over the past 29 years I'd filled the studio with finished art works, drawings, photographs and all the equipment necessary for constructing my sculptures. [See box at left.] And though the building and all the bits and pieces inside were only "things," a piece of my soul was also lost that day.

Soon after the fire, our neighbors down the road, long-time Sheffield dairy farmer Dick LeGeyt and his son-in-law Kevin, came by to say that if we needed their help for the cleanup just say the word and they'd be there with the bucket loader and the dump truck. We really knew them only to wave hello, but in our time of need, what a gesture of support and inspiration.

A week later, still somewhat in a daze, we found a small note with an astonishing offer left by a good friend on the back porch. "If you'd let me help, let's get that shop of yours back up and running," Neal Chamberlain wrote. Though winter seemed on the verge, what else to do but agree and allow Neal to organize his generous effort? "Leave it to me," he said with his engaging grin.

Within the week, Sheffield architect Frank Garretson had produced blueprints, and we were off and running on organizing something along the lines of a barn-raising.

As the target weekend approached, we refined plans with Michael King's great building insights and experience. We phoned, sent emails and wrote notes to prospective volunteer builders, food makers and warm bodies like me, who would help in any way possible.

As it happened, that weekend before Thanksgiving was freezing and windy, only 8 degrees as we started off the day. Neal arrived before dawn ready to rock 'n roll with hammer blazing. As cars and pickups arrived, Tom Carmody, the town building inspector, hand-delivered the building permit, strapped on his tool-belt and joined the crew of 16.

By Sunday's end, we had four walls secured, sheathed and proudly poised for a roof. Neal gracefully managed to be in ten places at once, answering at least as many questions from all sides with great aplomb and joy.

Two weeks later, the gods gave us a beautiful Saturday. Again a rowdy crew of 18 assembled in the early morning to grunt up the endless line of roof trusses with Jon Greene up high, swinging about like a trapeze artist to corral the first few sections in place. Before quitting for the day on Sunday in the face of high wind and snow, we had a roof adorned in plywood with the traditional pine bough at the peak.



The studio arises. Standing: Al Ginouves, Peter Maggio, Jon Greene, Bill Cary, Joe Kelley, Evan Kelley, Sam Earnshaw, Quentin Kelley, Steve Lango, Ricky Bernstein, Neal Chamberlain, John Hart. Kneeling in front: Tom Carmody, Jed Dixon, Michael King, Houston Scott.

As I leaned into the snowy roof's lower level, I looked up to see Neal scampering over the slippery surface with Spiderman-like grace. His determination to finish was nothing short of astonishing. I heard him remark to no one in particular, maybe just the wind, "Hey, I wouldn't work this hard for money," as he laughed out loud. The spirit and energy of community coming together in a grand gesture of support was truly the order of the day.

With an amazing outpouring of support, we did indeed put up a new studio building. There is still lots to be done. But my warmest heartfelt thanks to Michael King, Sam Earnshaw, Steve Ide, Tom Carmody, Sam Vansandt, Bill Cary, John Reel, Jon Greene, Joe, Quentin and Evan Kelley, Scott McKenzie, Julie and Ethan Chamberlain, Jed Dixon and Houston Scott from Rhode Island, John Holland, Al Ginouves, Steve Cary, John Hart, Brian Stewart, Dennis Downing, Peter Maggio, Neil Lidstone, Steve Lango, Bill and Joan DeVries, Kathy Duhon, Vera Kalm, Zoe Dalheim, Nancy Nirenburg, Jose Garcia, Frank Lowenstein, Dan Haas, Yurka Siedl and Marion Jansen.

Very special thanks to Ed Herrington for his exceptional generosity providing the building materials. Many thanks to our brave Sheffield volunteer firemen and those of nearby towns, who saved what they could on that frigid October morning. And lastly my love and admiration to Neal Chamberlain, the ringleader and the real hero of the project, who had enough energy left after the build to consider going dancing but settled for a home-cooked meal among friends. If it weren't for Neal's legendary enthusiasm, we'd still have just a concrete pad hidden by snow.

With immense gratitude....

—Ricky Bernstein and Elisabeth Cary

LAND TRUST FINALIZES PROTECTION FOR BOW WOW RD. FARMLAND

On Dec. 18, after seven years of effort, the Sheffield Land Trust closed the last part of a project that preserves more than 100 acres of land by Mill Pond, along Bow Wow Rd. The Land Trust has led the effort to acquire and protect the land (and a farmhouse) in three separately owned parcels, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the Community Land Trust in the Southern Berkshires.

The land is home to Ted Dobson's Equinox Farm, which grows mesclun, arugula and other greens available in many local and regional restaurants and food stores, and Anna Mack's Wild and Cultivated, which sells flowers to consumers at local farmers' markets and Guido's, as well as selling directly to many area event and wedding planners. One additional farmhouse is provided for. The effort was a partnership with the farmers, sellers (the Cohen, Drucker, Macchi, Pevzner, Preston and Sossner families) and the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources. At the closing, all agreed with Dobson, who said that the long wait was worth it.

The mechanism that now protects these farms from development is the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. It's set up to pay landowners the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent restriction that runs with the deed against any use of the land that would adversely affect its agricultural use. The money allows owners to pay back debts, invest in new equipment, provide for retirement and meet



Years in the making. At the closing for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on Bow Wow Rd., attorneys Ed Sossner, Kelton Burbank, Ira Kaplan (not shown: Dennis Downing); farmers Ted Dobson and Anna Mack; Kathy Orlando, Sheffield Land Trust, and Michele Padula from the state's APR program.

other family or farm needs.

The Land Trust facilitates APRs for farmers and landowners and raises the sizable "local contribution" amount required by the state. The Land Trust still has to raise \$112,000 for this project.

The Land Trust will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2009 and plans special events in the coming months. Since its founding, the organization has helped protect more than 3,000 acres. It shares an office on LeGeyt Rd. with The Nature Conservancy, in a house given to both organizations by Carol Tatkon. Anyone interested in more information on the organization and its projects can contact the Land Trust at 229-0234, shefland@bcn.net or P.O. Box 940, Sheffield MA 01257.

DEWEY HALL FOLK MUSIC

The Dewey Hall Folk Music Series continues its concerts on the first Saturday of the month. On Sat., Feb. 2, at 7:30pm, Adam Michael Rothberg, one of the 2008 Northeast Regional Finalists in the Mountain Stage New Song contest. Berkshire Living magazine has called him "the Berkshire's answer to Paul McCartney."

On Sat., Mar. 7, at 7:30 the series will present "A Musical Evening" with the trio Common Thread.

Dewey Hall is at 91 Main St., just off Route 7. The suggested donation is \$10. Refreshments are served. For more information, visit www.deweyhall.com.

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC.

HIGH QUALITY BODY REPAIR & FINISHING
Complete Collision • Paint • Glass Services
Laser Frame Measuring
Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems

THOMAS M. ANDRUS

Rt. 7, 1939 No. Main St., Sheffield MA 01257
(413) 528-1457 1-800-734-1457
Fax (413) 528-0186 • precision.auto@roadrunner.com

LICENSED

FULLY INSURED

KEVIN JOYCE PAINTING CONTRACTOR

Powerwashing • Wall Papering
Interior/Exterior



177 County Rd.
Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-2946
kjoycepaint@verizon.net

COVERED BRIDGE CHOSEN FOR ACCESS-SITE FUNDS

The Covered Bridge Park in Sheffield has been chosen as one of five sites in Berkshire County for enhanced canoe and kayak access to the Housatonic River. Funds for the project come from \$15 million in "national resource damages" paid by General Electric as part of its settlement to clean up and remediate damage caused by PCB releases into the Housatonic from its plant in Pittsfield. The money is being divided between Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Enhanced access to the river is a "Round 1 restoration project." Other Round 1 projects include land acquisition, trail development (along the Riverwalk in Great Barrington and elsewhere), controlling invasive species and instituting educational programs. The access part of the project, with funds totaling \$415,000, is being administered by ESS Group, Inc., and the Housatonic Valley Association.

Some \$30,000 has been allocated for the Covered Bridge site. Next steps are the development of a site-specific design, permitting, and construction.

Other access sites chosen in Berkshire County were Wahconah Park in Pittsfield, Woods Pond in Lenoxdale, Lee Athletic Field in Lee and Searles School in Great Barrington.

The Town of Sheffield was joined in its support for the grant by the Sheffield Land Trust and The Trustees of Reservations. Some 20 residents attended an informational meeting in late summer and made site visits to prepare for making the application.

"Special thanks go to Bill Connell, Neal Chamberlain, Rene Wendell and Kathy Orlando for their continued leadership with our river projects," said Julie Hannum, chair of Sheffield's Board of Selectmen.

NEW TOWN PARKING AREA NEARS COMPLETION

With a flurry of activity coordinated by Chris Tomich, local landscapers, nurseries and townspeople, who had earlier contributed trees, shrubs and topsoil, provided labor and talent in the final push to complete the town parking area next to Town Hall before the cold weather set in.

Over just a few days, townspeople saw the area planted with many substantial trees—including an elm, the town tree—and shrubs. The remaining curbing was installed, planted areas were filled with topsoil and grass seed sown. The stone wall was completed, including a passage to the Sheffield Historical Society's grounds next door. The area adjacent to Gulotta's Mobil was cleared and leveled.

A stone bench was built and two areas were laid with paving stones, including many commemorative stones and five inscribed with the town's

motto, "He who plants a tree, plants hope." The topcoat of paving was put down and parking spaces marked with crisp white lines.

Construction is now almost done. In the spring a bike rack will be installed, along with more benches, signage, additional lighting and a plaque listing all who contributed to the effort. A portable restroom that will be open May to October will also be put in place.

It's hard to believe this area was a vacant gravel lot earlier this year. What a transformation! The parking area makeover was accomplished through the



The new parking area next to Town Hall.

efforts of many, highlighting a partnership between volunteers and Town Hall. We'll list all the contributors to this effort in the next issue, but in the meantime, thank you to all who helped give Sheffield this wonderful present.

—Rene Wood

REVERSE MORTGAGE CONSULTANT

Jessica Krupski

(888) 229-9908 (TOLL FREE)

(413) 229-9908

All FHA mortgage programs available

ALLIED HOME MORTGAGE CAPITAL CORP.

Main office 88 Ryders Lane, Stratford, CT 06614

silk's variety

*Beer/wine/spirits
and much more!!*



*107 Main Street
Sheffield, MA
413.229.8702*

CHURCH NEWS

Our Lady Of The Valley Welcomes New Pastor

On Oct. 1, the Rev. Henry Movalczyk began his duties as parish administrator at Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church. Father Henry is a native of Poland and previously served in Indian Orchard, near Springfield, for four years.

Before that time he had been a part of the Radom Diocese in Poland, a diocese, he notes, that was very similar to the Springfield Diocese. Because of personal connections between the two dioceses and because of a shortage of American priests, Father Henry welcomed the opportunity to come to America.

He admits that serving in Sheffield represents a challenge for him. In his Indian Orchard parish, about 80 percent of the parishioners spoke Polish. That meant that much of his conversation could be in Polish. That's not the case in Sheffield, where he finds the need to speak idiomatic English a "wonderful opportunity."

He is delighted to be here. He speaks of Sheffield as being "an amazing place." He appreciates the town's life style, which

he perceives to be "quiet and peaceful." People seem to "go slower" than in Springfield or Poland. He values living in a small town—"one community, one family"—and he is pleased with the way the town's

churches work together. He finds the religious community "very ecumenical." Our Lady of the Valley, he notes, has been very welcoming to him, and he is delighted "there are lots of young people" there.

He is an avid skier and has already visited Killington in Vermont this season. He looks forward to trying out Butternut and Catamount. He also confesses a love for soccer; he was part of a men's team in Poland. And he is looking forward to trying out his new motorcycle in the spring.

In addition to serving Our Lady of the Valley, Father Henry also serves the Catholic Church in Mill River and, during the summer, a Catholic chapel in Monterey.

—John G. Wightman



Father Henry Movalczyk

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

NORTH EGREMONT

North Egremont Baptist, Egremont Plain Rd. (Rt. 71) 528-6066. Sunday: 10am Worship; Monday: 6pm Bible Study. Rev. Stephen Vannah, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of S. Berkshire. Meets at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (Congregational), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Henry Movalczyk

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Morning Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: George Karl

Webster Ingersoll

FINE GARDENS • STONEMWORK • TREE CARE
PLANT HEALTH CARE

'tis the season to be sure your trees are safe
for winter and beyond.

Our team will inspect, assess and respond!

Call today to arrange a free estimate.

CT Licensed & MA Certified Arborists
MCA, ISA, CTPA, TCIA

Webster Ingersoll

1719 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-8124

www.websteringersoll.com

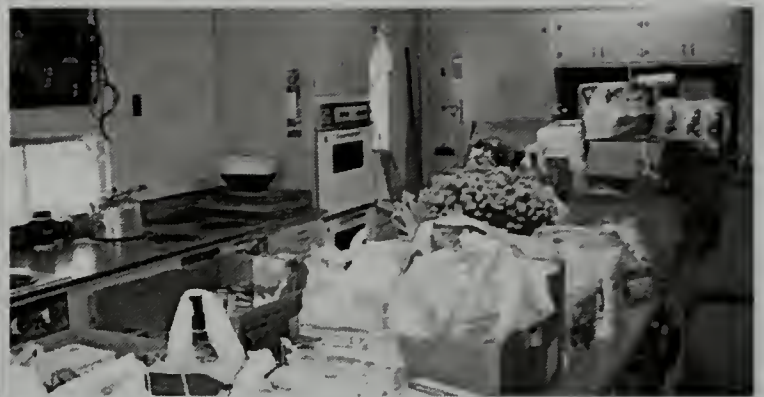
BENEFIT FOR GOOD SAMARITAN FUND A SUCCESS

A standing-room-only crowd poured into Old Parish Church on Nov. 9 to hear the Wood Tea Company's rousing blend of bluegrass, folk music and sea shanties. Everyone had a wonderful time, especially the children who danced throughout the show.

People made generous donations to the Good Samaritan Fund, raising over \$1,500 to provide short-term assistance to those in need in the greater Sheffield area. Established over 15 years ago by the churches in Sheffield and Ashley Falls, the Fund helps those who need a one-time boost to pay the fuel bill or the rent or provide food for the family.

Well-deserved kudos go to Pauline Schumann and Prisceilla Cote, who planned the event. Donations to the Good Samaritan Fund may be directed to Deacon Richard Magenis, c/o Our Lady of the Valley Church, Box 515, Sheffield, MA 01257.

—Dick Magenis



Above: Our kitchen after the Kiwanis dropped off donations raised in its "Can Walk." Top left: Dave Smith, the Kiwanis Santa, with Agnes Salvan and Sabina Ullrich, Food Program volunteers, and the gifts for kids from Old Parish Church, Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran, and other Sheffield friends. Center left: Bob and Mike Miller bringing in cases of food donated by the Lakeville radio station. Bottom left: Elizabeth and Caitlin Hotelling dance at the Good Samaritan Fund benefit concert.

Food Program

Thanks to many generous donors, the Sheffield Food Assistance Program had a bountiful autumn. To donate, you can drop off grocery items in the barrel in the lobby of Berkshire Bank in Sheffield during business hours. Checks may be written to Old Parish Church (write "Sheffield Food Assistance Program" on the menu line), PO Box 387, Sheffield, MA 01257.



SANDRA PRESTON REAL ESTATE
Massachusetts, Connecticut & New York Properties

Representing Buyers and Sellers in the Tri-State area for over 30 years. If you are planning to buy or sell, please contact us. Our office is open 7 days a week. We are members of the Berkshire Board of Realtors and their Multiple Listing Service as well as the Litchfield County Board and their MLS. Visit our website at www.sandraprestonrealestate.com, e-mail: pressa@verizon.net, or just call us at 413-229-2077.

575 Sheffield Plain, (Route 7)
Sheffield, MA 01257
Sandra Preston, Broker, GRI, CRS



11th Annual Winter Lecture

GREEN ENERGY FOR HOMEOWNERS

**A panel discussion
& slide show**

**Saturday, February 28, 3 to 5 pm
at Dewey Hall**

Afternoon tea and refreshments will be served

✧ Open to the public

✧ Admission is free

✧ Donations welcome

Call 229-0234 for more information

A GOOD YEAR AT THE LIBRARY

This has been a busy year at the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library. Library operations are humming, book and media circulation is way up and the community meeting room has hosted many programs. The building received major renovations to the heating/cooling system, with new dual furnaces and central AC. Enhanced website/email capacities have widened patron and interlibrary access. And there's a sleek new machine that prints spine labels faster, neater, easier.

All this alongside a successful drive for new accessions. During this year, the library has assembled a superb collection housed on the second floor devoted to plant life, gardens, and landscape design, with hundreds of titles. Jacqueline Connell, a Sheffield-based

garden historian and landscape architect, has directed the project. Vegetables, pests, philosophy and technique of growing



things—whatever you seek, the answers will be found inside these volumes. "As word has gotten round," Connell said, "the browsers are discovering us, and garden club ladies are visiting. Our collection is unique in South County."

Other news: All knitters are welcome to join the circle that meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6 to 8pm.

Attention, DVD fans! There are some new foreign films on the rack you won't want to miss.

The public is invited to a symposium on aging, Mon., Jan. 12 at 2:30pm. (See box opposite.)

Nancy Hahn and her staff have served with efficiency and enthusiasm. When asked to sum up 2008, Hahn said, "It's been exciting! There's been a whole shift of energy to this side of town

since the Marketplace opened. You'd be surprised at the number of people who do 'library and lunch'!"

As the year draws to a close, a salute to the Bushnell-Sage for a job well done!

—Fred Gordon

PJ's
Country Convenience Store

CATERING
 All Size Parties

DELI
 Specialized Sandwiches,
 Soups, Salads & Homemade Foods

LOTTERY • BEER • WINE • GROCERIES

139 South Main St., Sheffield, MA
 413-229-6610

**Orchard Shade
 Bed & Breakfast**

999 Hewins Street
 Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-8463
www.orchardshade.com

Dawn O'Neil's Family Child Care

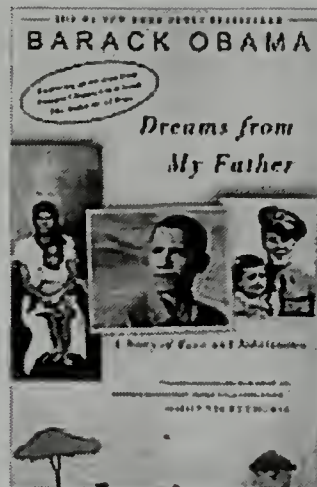
1701 Hewins Street
 Ashley Falls, MA 01222
 (413) 229-8557

RECOMMENDED READING

Dreams from My Father by Barack Obama (Three Rivers Press).

Dreams from My Father is the remarkable autobiography of Barack Obama, covering his life up to his enrollment at Harvard Law School. Published in 1995, the book has three parts, Origins, Chicago, and Kenya. It is an exhilarating report on the fluidity of identity in this cosmopolitan age as a young man discovers a new path through the American racial thicket. Along the way, Obama's perspective is big-hearted, tolerant, politically astute and personal, as he introduces the reader to a lively cast of characters in Hawaii, Indonesia, southside Chicago and his ancestral homeland, Kenya. Most of us know by now the broad outlines of the Obama story. We are on tenterhooks for the next installment. This book colors in some details. Highly recommended.

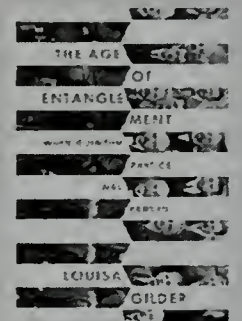
(In the next issue, I'll review Obama's second book, *The Audacity of Hope*.)
—Fred Gordon



COMING EVENTS

Symposium on aging. A symposium on aging, with a focus on health for seniors, will be presented Mon., Jan. 12, at the library at 2:30pm. Medical specialists scheduled to attend include Dr. Edward Weiner, internist; Dr. Kimberly May, rheumatologist; Dr. Scott Goffen, dermatologist; and Dr. Andrew Schwartz, podiatrist. Attorney Paula Almgren will discuss topics in elder law. Admission is free. A light refreshment will be served.

Booktalk. Louisa Gilder will discuss her recently published book *Age of Entanglement: When Quantum Physics Was Reborn*. George Dyson, author of *Darwin Among the Machines*, called it "an admirable, unexpected book, historically sound and seamlessly constructed, that transports those of us who do not understand quantum mechanics into the lives and thoughts of those who did." Sat., Feb. 14 at 2pm.



Martin Luther King, Jr., event. See the Historical Society's listings, page 19.



AUTO PARTS

Louis & Tammy Pipa
Proprietors

TNL Auto Supply, LLC.
227 Stockbridge Rd
Great Barrington, Ma. 01230
413-528-0838
Open 7 Days a Week



Master License
#A9383

Fully Insured
30 Years Experience

**Joe Seward
& Sons, Inc.**

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

-Residential -Commercial
-Industrial

- New Construction
- Landscape Lighting
- Renovations
- Modular Homes

413-229-2561



DOMINICK & DOMINICK LLC

Pamela Bloodworth

Financial Advisor
Investments

150 E. 52ND STREET
3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10022

413 229 3530

212 558 8820
800 221 2869
212 750 6475 FAX

pbloodworth@dominickanddominick.com

BY APP'T FRIDAYS

ECONOMY, from page 1

the number of hotel rooms in the county than by the overall economy.

Rothstein also owns the Stagecoach Tavern restaurant next door to the inn. Business there has also been "pretty much the same" as last year, he said.

The antiques business is "definitely slower," said Susan Silver of Susan Silver Antiques on Rt. 7. She thinks people will

feel better when Obama takes office in January and start spending again. "People who do furniture repairs are doing very well now," she added.

Edith Gilson of Cupboards & Roses, also on Rt. 7, says that her website is "doing very nicely" and has helped make up for the relatively slow traffic in her store.

Impact on Town finances

State budgets are being cut, and that will affect the town budget for the coming fiscal year. "We are just now starting our FY2010 budget process and have been advised to expect a 10 percent decline in state aid," said Joe Kellogg, Sheffield's Town Administrator. "I am anticipating a 25 percent decline in property tax revenues we receive from 'new growth,' that is, new houses and additions, as well as a reduction in excise tax receipts, since people aren't buying as many new cars."

Kellogg added, "To date, we are not aware of any foreclosures. Sheffield residents have always been great about paying their taxes, and we have seen nothing yet indicating that will change."

GREEN ENERGY FOR HOMES PANEL DISCUSSION

Save the date: Sat., Feb. 28, 3-5pm.

The Sheffield Land Trust's eleventh annual winter lecture will be on the topic "Green Energy for Homeowners." The panel discussion and slide show at Dewey Hall will feature architects, service providers and local residents with experience in installing and living with solar, geothermal and other green forms of energy. Afternoon tea and refreshments will be follow. The public is welcome. Admission is free, and donations are welcome. Information at 229-0234.

NEW SESSION AT TACONIC LEARNING CENTER

The Taconic Learning Center will begin its winter/spring session in mid January. Historical studies include: challenges facing the new Presidential administration; an overview of contemporary foreign policy decisions; a new look at the conventional view of Colonial America; and an evaluation of six significant historical events in English and American History. Cultural courses include: an in-depth study of a Shakespearean play; the plays of Oscar Wilde; a play-reading class; an examination of music from Bach to Mozart; and a modern art course. There will also be six seminar sessions on self-awareness.

Courses take place in Salisbury, CT, at Noble Horizons, Scoville Library and St. John's Church, and at Geer Village in Canaan, CT. The number of sessions varies. Morning classes run from 10am to 12pm, afternoon ones from 2 to 4pm. Annual membership dues of \$60 entitle each member to take as many classes as they wish in the fall and winter/spring semesters. For more information, call 860-435-9363 to check www.taconiclearningcenter.org.

Are You On The A-List?

Those already on the A-List know that the Cottages and Cobble Suites at Noble Horizons are the most coveted senior housing in the area. They also know that these accommodations wait for no one.

Not long ago waiting until you were 75 to put your name on the A-List was fine. Today, 65 is none too early and we see that the wise ones do it at age 55.

There is no fee whatsoever for making an application to Noble Horizons. Your application simply makes a place for you. So, there is everything to gain by applying sooner than later, not to mention the many perks wait list people get.



17 COBBLE ROAD
SALISBURY, CT 06068

860-435-9851 www.noblehorizons.org

To get on the A-List, start today with this **"TO DO"** list:

- ☐ Call Joy Martorell at Noble Horizons 860-435-9851, x188
- ☐ Schedule a tour of the Cottages or Cobble Suites
- ☐ Fill out and return a Cottage application with no entry fee or application fee to pay
- ☐ Get a list of the perks

 Equal Housing Opportunity



Bridge dedication

On Nov. 3, the bridge along Route 7 that's between the two rest areas in Ashley Falls was dedicated as the Sheffield Veterans Memorial Bridge. Attending were local officials and members of the Sheffield American Legion Post-340.

Back row: Milt Barnum, Jim Shiminski, Bill Bennett, District Commander Larry Brothers, Dale Alden, State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, State Senator Ben Downing, George Oleen, Bruce Philbrick, Town Administrator Joe Kellogg, Bob VanDeusen, Doris Van Deusen, Scott Irwin. Front row: David Smachetti, District Adjutant Ralph Schwartz, Marion Barnum, Maurice Decker, Phil Boardman, and Bill Gordon.

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

Reminder: the senior center is on winter hours: Monday to Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm.

New member of COA. Rosemarie Wright has been appointed to fill the Council on Aging position left vacant when Peter Traub moved out of town. She joins Joan Brooks, Mary Ellen Demming, Natalie Funk, Lovina Gulotta, Anne Hyatt, Dick Magenis, Dawn Massini and Carol Sica.

Papermaking. The papermaking project finished up in December and the finished cards, made from cornhusks, gladiolas, cabbage or goldenrod, were sold at the Cookie Walk at Mt. Everett High School on Dec. 6.

Senior health discussion. A free symposium on senior health with several doctors and an elder law specialist will be held at the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library on Mon., Jan. 12. There will be time for the speakers to answer questions. See the Library comings events on page 9.

January potluck lunch: new date. These lunches are usually on the third Thursday of the month. In January, it will take place on Jan. 29 instead, to accommodate a guest speaker, Carole Bertuzzi Luciani, from Ontario, Canada. Bring your favorite dish and hear a meaningful, motivational message.

January movies. The Lawn Chair movie Tuesdays in January will feature foreign films. At 11:30am. Bring your own lunch and enjoy free popcorn.

The Sheffield Historical Society



COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING
SHEFFIELD'S HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

The 1774 **Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm (May-Oct.)

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The 1834 **Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space.

Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm
& Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

159 Main Street | PO Box 747 | Sheffield, MA 01257
413.229.2694 | shs@sheffieldhistory.org
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Country Property Associates



Realtors & Developers

Mary Alice Welch

Broker Associate

office 413-229-0330 fax 413-229-0399

residence 413-229-7776

P.O. Box 909, 81 Main Street, Sheffield, Massachusetts 01257

PASTEL - WATERCOLOR- OIL PAINTINGS

By

Lois Van Cleef

Casa Mia Studio

Ashley Falls, Massachusetts

413/229-3355

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town census. It's that time of year again. As required by state statute, the Annual Census is conducted each January and February by the Town Clerk's office. The information collected is vital to compiling the Annual Street List and the school census. In doing so, it provides information for veterans benefits, state aid to senior citizens, aid to local emergency services, as well as a list of potential jurors. Your form will arrive any day. Please return it as soon as possible. If you have

ASSESSOR'S AND COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The tax rate for Fiscal Year 2009 has been approved by the Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue, Bureau of Local Assessment, at \$12.12 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, up from \$11.74 last year. The increase includes the override approved by voters in May. The new rate will result in an increase per year for the average taxpayer of about \$120. Third-quarter tax bills, which reflect this rate, were mailed by the end of December 2008. Contact the Assessors Office with any questions regarding valuation.

Sheffield businesses: The Fiscal 2010 Form of Lists will be mailed to existing accounts in early January. If you're a new business, please stop in for a form or download one from our website.

questions, contact the office, and we'll be happy to assist you.

Dog licenses for 2009.

Please renew your dog's license between March 1 and May 1. The fee is \$5 for intact dogs, \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs. A \$25 per dog fine will be applied after May 1. If your dog is six months or older and housed in town for at least 30 days of the year it is required by state law to be licensed. Proof of current rabies vaccinations is also required. If you prefer to mail your payment, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257. Make your check payable to the Town of Sheffield. Licenses will be processed effective March 1. If you no longer have a dog, please notify us.

Rabies clinic. The Scouts will hold their annual rabies clinic on Sat., March 28 from 1-3pm. The fee will be \$10 per vaccination. If you need assistance from the dog officer, please contact Richard M. Boardman at 229-8554.

Hunting and fishing. Sporting licenses for 2009 are available, as well as archery, waterfowl and primitive arms stamps. Please provide a previous year's license or a copy of a hunter safety certificate with your application.



SHEFFIELD POTTERY



ART POTTERY
FOR THE HOME,
FOR THE GARDEN,
FOR THE TABLE...

BENNINGTON,
SIMON PEARCE,
WEDDING AND
BIRTH PLATES

HOLIDAY SALE

VISIT US IN PERSON AT
SHEFFIELD POTTERY
RT. 7 SHEFFIELD MA
OPEN 7 DAYS
888.774-2529

SHOP ONLINE ANYTIME AT

www.AmericanMadePottery.com

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

10/6—The Board granted Charles Schmidt permission to install a mirror at his home at 991 Home Rd. to allow him to see on-coming traffic when pulling out of his driveway, providing the mirror does not shine headlights back into the traffic.

A letter of resignation was accepted from James Beckwith of the Highway Dept. Board Chairman Julie Hannum congratulated Beckwith on his appointment as foreman of the Mt. Washington Highway Dept.

Selectman Jim Collingwood moved to appoint Tony Errichetto as Light Truck Driver/Laborer on the recommendation of Town Administrator Joe Kellogg and Assistant Highway Superintendent Edward Lord, seconded by Chairman Hannum. Appointments for the Conservation Commission and Council on Aging were held until the next meeting.

Voters at the Annual Town Meeting approved expanding the Zoning Board of Appeals from three regular members and three alternates to five regular members and one alternate. The Attorney General's office has now approved the change. The ZBA has a hearing scheduled for Oct. 21 that won't have a quorum. Administrator Kellogg recommended that the Board keep the three current members and appoint two new members and one alternate member in time for the scheduled hearing. The vacancies will be advertised.

The Board discussed the collaboration of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

The Marketplace has requested permission for patrons to bring their own beer or wine to the café at 18 Elm Court until it can get a regular beer and wine license. Administrator Kellogg stated that the Board can adopt a policy that allows BYOB in establishments and grant permission contingent on the adopted policy. Administrator Kellogg will draft such a policy for discussion at the next meeting.

Selectman Collingwood noted that the paving has begun on Hulett Hill and Rote Hill roads. Chairman Hannum thanked Chris Tomich who has been working voluntarily on the Town

Hall parking area all week; it should be ready for paving this week. Administrator Kellogg also offered thanks to Tom Ingersoll, Tom Whalen, Joe Wilkinson and the Hewins family for their work and donations to the parking area.

Chairman Hannum thanked everyone involved regarding the Housatonic River Canoe Access Project.

Chairman Hannum and Building Inspector Thomas Carmody attended the dedication of the new classroom building at Berkshire School. A forum will be held on Oct. 30 for School Committee candidates.

Administrator Kellogg is seeking photographs for the cover of the 2008 Town Report. Anyone willing to share a photo taken in 2008 that pertains to the Town can send it in for consideration.

Marilyn Wightman has written a letter requesting appointment to the Housing Commission. Amber Spring has requested to be appointed to the Cultural Council.

10/20—The Board unanimously adopted the Economic Development Plan, dated Sept. 15. It also unanimously agreed to establish a committee to work on economic development. Members of the Industrial Development Committee and the Economic Development Task Force will be contacted to see if they're interested in joining the new committee.

The Board made some appointments. It appointed Don Ward to a three-year term on the Conservation Commission.

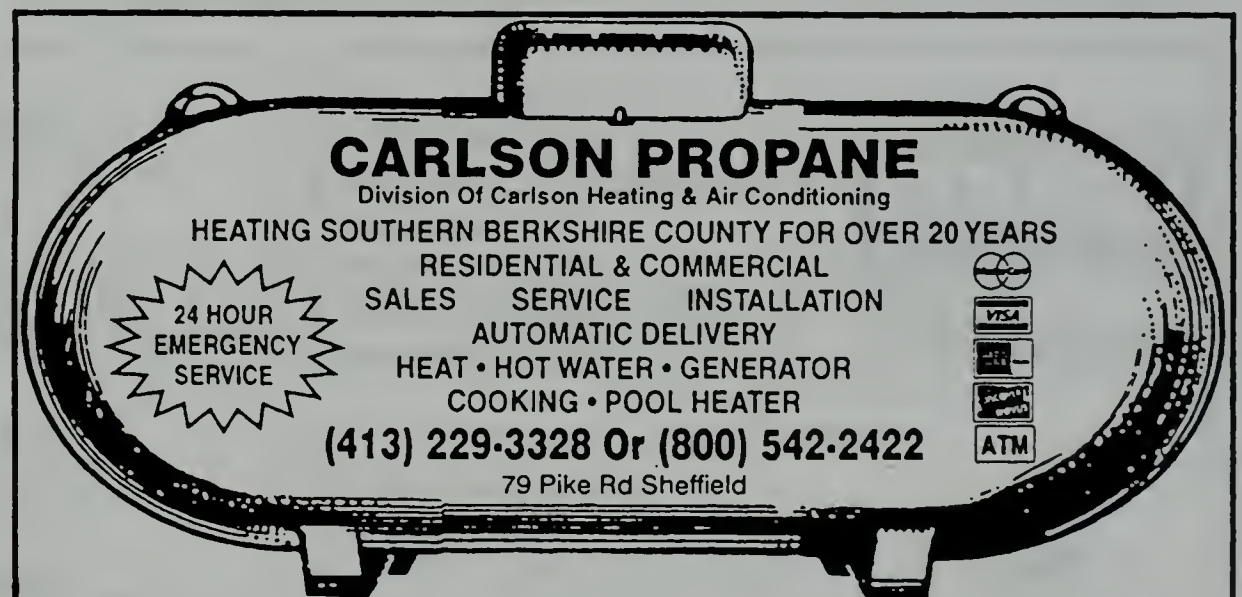
It appointed David West to a three-year term and Eric Blackburn to a two-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA alternate position is still open. Anyone interested in applying was asked to contact the Board.

The Board also appointed Amber Spring to a three-year term to the Cultural Council. The Board voted to suspend the appointment policy and appoint Elizabeth Smith to the Board of Registrars for a one-year term, given the imminence of the 2008 elections.

The Board discussed obtaining grants to improve canoe access on the Housatonic River, along with the possibility of the Park and Recreation Committee expanding its duties to include overseeing all of the Town-owned park property. Administrator Kellogg will discuss the possibility with Mike Ovitt, chair of the committee.

The Board granted permission to The Marketplace to allow patrons to bring their own wine and beer until it obtains a regular wine and malt license. Administrator Kellogg read the proposed Brown Bag Policy: Only beer and wine is allowed. Patrons bringing their own alcoholic beverages must order dinner. All containers and beverages must be removed by the patrons when they leave the restaurant. Restaurant proprietors must post signs advising that the use of alcoholic beverages is at patrons' own risk and liability. Only persons who are 21 years of age or older will be allowed to consume any alcoholic

Continued on page 14



CARLSON PROPANE
Division Of Carlson Heating & Air Conditioning

HEATING SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY FOR OVER 20 YEARS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION
AUTOMATIC DELIVERY
HEAT • HOT WATER • GENERATOR
COOKING • POOL HEATER

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

(413) 229-3328 Or (800) 542-2422
79 Pike Rd Sheffield

VISA
MasterCard
Discover
ATM

Minutes, continued from page 13

beverage. Any problems or concerns that arise will result in immediate suspension of the permission.

The Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection requires an annual inspection of the Transfer Station. The Board voted to accept two proposals from Eric Weiss. The first covers the inspection, at a charge of \$450. The second will provide an improvement plan for the Transfer Station for \$900. The total charge, \$1,350, will come from the Enterprise Fund.

A meeting is scheduled for Oct 22 at the Mason Library in Great Barrington for further discussions on regional school issues by the towns of Alford, Egremont, Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge. Each town will have one representative participate in the discussion. The Board voted unanimously to have Chairman Hannum as the representative from Sheffield.

Administrator Kellogg is working with the Center for Ecological Technology on the possibility of installing solar panels on the Library. The funding would be provided by a grant from Mass Technology Collaborative.

The paving on Hulett Hill Rd. is complete. Rote Hill Rd. has a base coat and the finish coat will be put down next fall.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose Ballot Question #1, which would eliminate the State income tax.

11/17—At a working meeting before the regular 7pm meeting, Administrator Kellogg discussed changing to a four-day

work week for Town Hall employees. The number of hours worked per week would not change. The Center for Ecological Technology has advised that energy wouldn't be saved if the hours each of the four days were extended, but there would be a savings if Town Hall stayed open one evening when the building would normally be occupied because of meetings. A formal vote on the proposal will be taken at the regular meeting.

Kevin Moran from City Moves was present to discuss revised plans for his property at the Business Park and to request a time extension to complete his building. The original agreement with the Town required that the building be completed within two years or the Town has the right to buy the property back at the original price. The plan has now been downsized. The Special Permit has expired and a new one is needed to proceed. The Board agreed to the revised, downsized plan and to allow an extension pending receipt of a letter from a bank stating that City Moves has financial backing for the project.

The Board entered executive session at 6:40pm to discuss collective bargaining and returned to open session at 6:50 pm.

Fire Chief Rick Boardman was present to discuss the purchase of a tanker. A vote at Town Meeting approved \$350,000 for the purchase of a tanker but the price, if the tanker is ordered by Dec. 31, has risen to \$370,000; if it is ordered after Dec. 31, the price increases by an additional \$17,000. Discussion ensued regarding a Special Town Meeting, the

addition to the Fire House and the Special Permit needed for the expansion. It was noted that there likely was not enough time to call a Special Town Meeting and bid the truck before Jan.1.

At the regular meeting Nov. 17, the Board voted to appoint Rosemarie Wright to the Council on Aging for a term to expire on June 30, 2009. The Board accepted the resignation of Jeff Waingrow from the Conservation Commission and voted to send a letter of thanks for his service. Chairman Hannum noted that there is now a vacancy on the Conservation Commission. No applications have been received for the Zoning Board of Appeals Associate member vacancy. Anyone interested should send in a letter of interest.

The Board voted unanimously to close the Town Hall on Friday, with extended hours on Monday, on a trial basis from Dec.15 to Feb.15. [See story on page 15.] The change will be publicized around town and feedback will be collected from the employees and the public.

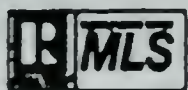
The Board voted unanimously to award snowplowing services contracts to two bidders: Artie Mathieu, 94 Pike Rd. West, and Richard Boardman, 101 Bridgeview Lane. Bids from both were \$55 per hour for plow and driver, \$65 per hour with a sander.

The Board voted to award some temporary sign permits, to the Sheffield Friendly Union for its Saturday indoor market, and to the PTO Scholarship for advertising its Cookie Walk Craft Fair.

The Board voted unanimously to send



ISGOOD REALTY



490 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
BUS: (413) 528-2040
FAX: (413) 528-6516
RES: (413) 229-8829
isgood@vgernet.net

ANN MORELLI SMITH
SALES ASSOCIATE

CARL VAN DEUSEN

ELECTRICIAN - MA LIC. #36403E
HEATING / AIR CONDITIONING
MA LIC. #BU024769 / CT LIC. #353948
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE TRADES

ZENEX CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS
AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR - SALES, SERVICE,
INSTALLATION

PHONE: 413-229-8624

a letter of thanks to outgoing members of the School Committee: David Steindler, Jack Pollitt, Susan Young and Eric Blackburn. Chairman Hannum welcomed the new members of the School Committee: Catherine Miller, H. Dennis Sears, Andy Fetterhoff and Vito Valentini.

Chairman Hannum congratulated Nancy Hahn, the Library Trustees and the Friends of the Library for another successful Author's Day, held on Nov. 1.

Administrator Kellogg reported that Robert O'Brien of Sandisfield has been appointed as Equipment Operator, Truck Driver and Laborer effective Dec. 1.

As of Feb. 17 a converter box will be needed to receive a TV signal from an antenna. Subscribers to cable or satellite will not have any changes.

Information on the new change, which is mandated by the FCC, may be obtained from the Town Hall. [See box above.]

Administrator Kellogg offered congratulations to Police Officer Michael Ovitt for recently receiving a Superintendent's Commendation from the Massachusetts State Police for his work involving a fatality in New Marlborough. An awards ceremony was held last week.

George Oleen made several inquiries. About his complaint about a culvert on Foley Rd, Administrator Kellogg will set up a site visit to view the problem. Kellogg will also look into the procedure for Oleen's payment as Health Inspector and discuss the status of a picture ID

with Police Chief Jim McGarry.

Chairman Hannum thanked the Town Clerk for her work with the Nov. 4 election, in which 84 percent of the Town's registered voters turned out to vote.

12/1—Ronnie Bassett retired as Highway Superintendent effective Nov. 28. Administrator Kellogg and the Board thanked Ronnie for the tremendous job during his many years running the Highway Dept. The Board appointed Edward Lord as Highway Superintendent, effective Dec. 1.

The Board received a letter from the bank providing the financial backing for the City Moves project in the Business Park. The Board approved a one-year extension of the agreement.

Selectman David Macy thanked Tammy Blackwell for the holiday lights along Main St. and for her work on getting the Town tree lights installed.

Chairman Hannum announced that the Covered Bridge property has been selected as one of the sites to receive funding for improved canoe access to the Housatonic River.

The Board approved a temporary sign permit for Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Women's Club.

Chairman Hannum noted that a rare astronomical event can be seen in the night sky tonight. The moon, Jupiter and Venus are in a triangle close together, something that will not happen again until 2052.

REMINDER: TVs GO DIGITAL FEB. 17

As of Feb. 17, TV stations will broadcast only digitally. If you have a recent TV set or subscribe to cable or satellite, you don't need to do anything. If you have an older set and receive your signal via rabbit ears or another kind of antenna, you can do three things: get an analog-to-digital converter box; buy a new TV set; or subscribe to a cable or satellite service. For more information, check www.dtv.gov or call 1-800-CALL-FTC.

TOWN HALL TRIES 4-DAY WEEK FOR WINTER

In an effort to reduce energy costs during the winter months, Town Hall is working a four-day week for the winter and is closed on Fridays until Feb. 15. Town Hall offices are open late on Monday, 8:30am to 7:30pm. Regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be 8:30am to 4:30pm. (The hours used to be 9am to 4pm.) The experiment started the week of Dec. 15.

The change is being implemented on a trial basis, said Joe Kellogg, Town Administrator. "We are interested in hearing what people think," Kellogg said. You can reach him at Town Hall, 229-7000, x 152, or by email at sheffieldmass@bcn.net. Whether the shorter work week indeed saves energy won't be known for a couple of months. "We'll then check on actual energy consumption as compared to last year, taking into account the number of degree days this year versus last," Kellogg said.

ICE SKATING FOR TOWN AT BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

Berkshire School is again providing free open skating for Sheffield and Ashley Falls residents at its indoor skating rink Sunday evenings 6 to 8pm through February.

The rink is open to town residents only—bring proof of residency. Children under 14 must be accompanied by a parent. Hockey equipment and hockey playing is not allowed during these hours, nor is speed skating.

DE VRIES BUILDING SUPPLY INC.

21 BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ROAD SHEFFIELD, MA

- Lumber
- Garden Supplies
- Domestic & Livestock Feed



- Masonry
- Paint
- Insulation
- Hardware

Whether you're a contractor or doing the job yourself you'll find what you need at De Vries.

413-229-8777 413-229-8820 FAX

MISS BRADFORDS?

next best thing....

Great Finds

1840 North Main, Rt. 7
Sheffield, MA 01257
(413) 528-8059

Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 11-5

COME SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING!

ZBA DECIDING LEGALITY OF ACTIVITIES ON CENTURY ACQUISITIONS SITE

On Dec. 16, after nearly seven hours of testimony in three sessions, Eric Carlson, chair of Sheffield's Zoning Board of Appeals, closed the hearing on the administrative appeal filed by the No Asphalt! Defense Fund over activities taking place at the Century Acquisitions cement plant and sand and gravel mine on Clayton Rd. The ZBA is scheduled to begin deliberations at 7pm on Jan. 7, as this issue goes to press.

The administrative appeal was the result of the citizen's group seeking enforcement action from Sheffield's building inspector, Tom Carmody, on activities currently taking place at the site in Ashley Falls near Sheffield's Connecticut border. The group believes the activities are violations of the town's zoning by-laws. When the building inspector declined to take enforcement action, the appeal was filed with the ZBA.

Meanwhile, Century Acquisitions filed an air-quality permit application with the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection for its proposed hot mix asphalt plant at the site. The application specifies a five-ton batch plant with an output of 360 tons per hour or production not to exceed 250,000 tons per year. Century Acquisitions has not yet re-filed its special permit application for the asphalt plant with the ZBA. It was the original special permit application for this plant last winter that prompted concerned residents to organize and discover

additional information about the current operations at Century's site, leading to the current appeal.

The ZBA's hearing on the appeal was delayed by the change of the board from three to five members, following voters' approval of that change at Town Meeting in May. The hearings took place on Nov. 13, Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. During the three sessions, both sides presented significant amounts of information for the board to consider.

The No Asphalt! Defense Fund was represented by attorney Elisabeth Goodman. She argued two separate issues, each requiring a decision by the ZBA. One centers on Century Acquisitions' allegedly going beyond the activities grandfathered in 1994 when Sheffield's zoning laws passed, by increasing the hours and operations of its batch concrete plant and sand and gravel mine. The second focuses on the use of the site by another company, B. Metcalf Paving, to store and recycle asphalt pavement, brick and concrete rubble, as well as store and recycle asphalt shingles.

Century Acquisitions was represented by attorney Alison Coan, and B. Metcalf Paving by attorney Gail Garrett. Coan pointed out that the Century site was an aggregate mining and processing facility going back over 70 years and that the special permit granted by the ZBA in 2001, which permitted mining

"Let's talk trash ... your trash!"

JTC & SONS

A locally owned and operated business is asking you to rethink the way you do trash. Routes are forming today to satisfy all your residential, commercial, and industrial needs.

Call now for affordable rates and ask about incentives available to the first (100) residential customers.

Contact **James or Theresa Collingwood**
daily at **(413) 229-2822** or evenings at **(413) 229-3186**

Recycling is a must to work with us!

on the property outside area actively mined as of 1994, carried no conditions on operations or hours. Coan argued that current operations were protected under the "nonconforming" status and that this protection runs with the land, giving that status to the operations of B. Metcalf Paving. Coan also provided start and stop times for the sand and gravel operation from late March to early November.

Ben Metcalf spoke for himself, as did a representative of the consulting firm Tighe & Bond, while Greg Marlow, plant manager, and Andrew Clemente, engineer and owner, spoke in support of Century Acquisitions. Attorney Garrett maintained that the current uses are all "conforming accessory uses."

Numerous abutters to the plant spoke of the negative impact the plant has had on their ability to enjoy their homes and be outside in their yards. Photos were provided to show what abutters talked about. Written testimony was provided regarding operations as of May 1994, when the zoning by-laws took effect and the uses became nonconforming. Even though the hearings were crowded, everyone had a chance to say their piece.

The ZBA members listened intently and commented frequently. The board members are Eric Carlson, chair, Eric Blackburn, Bart Elsbach, Peter Rowntree and David West. Ellen Doucette of Brackett & Lucas has been retained as legal counsel to the ZBA and also answered questions from the board.

If at least four ZBA members vote to grant the appeal on either issue, Century or B. Metcalf would have to apply for one or more special permits, which would be decided in a separate hearing.

VACANCIES ON TOWN BOARDS

Several positions are open on Town boards and committees, according to the Sheffield town website (as of Jan. 1):

Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Board of Assessors, Cable Television Committee, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Industrial Development Commission, Local Emergency Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Committee, Planning Board (associate member), Veteran's Grave Officer and Zoning Board of Appeals (associate member).

If you are interested in serving, contact Joe Kellogg, Sheffield's Town Administrator, or Julie Hannum, chair of the Board of Selectman, at Town Hall (229-7000) or at sheffieldmass@bcn.net.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Sheffield Town Hall main number	229-7000
Assessor	x 155
Board of Selectmen	x 152
Building Inspector	x 156
Tax Collector	x 153
Town Administrator	x 152
Town Clerk	x 151
Fire Dept. non-emergency	229-7032
Library	229-7004
Police Dept. non-emergency	229-8522
Transfer Station	229-7019

Save the date!

Monday, January 12, 2009 • 2:30 – 4:30pm

A symposium on aging with an accent on **HEALTH FOR SENIORS**

GUEST SPEAKERS

(Subject to change)

DR. EDWARD WEINER, Internist

DR. KIMBERLY MAY, Rheumatologist

DR. SCOTT GOFFEN, Dermatologist

DR. ANDREW SCHWARTZ, Podiatrist
&

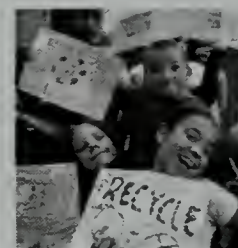
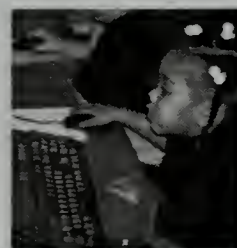
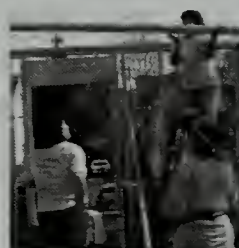
PAULA ALMGREN, Elder Law Specialist

Bushnell-Sage Library
48 Main Street in Sheffield, MA

Any questions, call 229-7004

Free admission

Refreshments



An Investment in
the Community is an
Investment in our
Quality of Life.

BERKSHIRE BANK

America's Most EXciting Bank™

**BERKSHIRE
INSURANCE GROUP, INC.™**

Member FDIC

www.berkshirebank.com

Member DIF

Banking • Investment • Insurance • Wealth Management

Insurance and investment products are not FDIC or DIF insured,
may lose value and are not a bank deposit or guaranteed.

PROFILE: DEVRIES BUILDING SUPPLY

Last October marked the 25th anniversary of a Sheffield landmark, DeVries Building Supply, located on Berkshire School Rd. near the railroad track just west of Route 7. We've all been there—for lumber, paint, nails, shingles—or just for some good advice from owners Joan and Bill DeVries. It's a place where you are likely to meet one of your neighbors on Saturday morning and comment on politics or the economy while waiting for those 2x4s to be cut.

What started out as a small hardware store grew, thanks to loyal customers and repeat business, into a full service lumberyard and an expanded hardware store with a wide array of products. It now draws customers from all over the southern Berkshires and surrounding states as well.

In the early 1920s, a man named Hedy built some buildings by the railroad tracks. In 1923, Rodney der Combs bought the buildings and started a business he called Mount Everett Lumber. A third railroad track existed then, which went into his coal yards, and he used it to bring in logs and milled lumber by rail. Combs eventually replaced all but one of the original buildings, which still exists but is surrounded by newer construction. He sold the business to his brother Richard, who sold it in 1951 to Milt Barnum, who later sold it to Paul Moritz, Jr.

Joan DeVries laughs when she recalls the day she and Bill bought the business from Paul.

"We had just had our first child, and I signed the contract and changed the baby's diapers on the same table!"

The DeVrieses lived in Ashley Falls and were considered outsiders in Sheffield's close-knit community when they bought the store in 1983. By that time, it was already a multipurpose business that sold paint and hardware as well as lumber. Bill, who had been a general contractor, said it took a while to get established. He grew the business slowly and conservatively and gradually added more buildings.

Back in the 1920s, right, the business was known as Mount Everett Hardware. Below, DeVries Building Supply as it appears today.



Today more than 50 percent of the store's sales are to contractors in the tri-state area. The retail store, which originally was less than 1,000 square feet, is now 3,500 square feet and serves mainly locals in the southern Berkshire area. The business has nine full time employees, including Dana Barnum, son of Milt, the former owner.

The DeVrieses make an effort to find and sell products that are environmentally friendly.

"'Green' has become an overused marketing word," says Bill. "For the past 15 years, we have sold insulation, doors, windows and other products that are energy efficient, environmentally friendly and attractive. For example, we use a window manufacturer that makes an energy efficient window that is historically correct and will visually fit the age of the house. We recently sold 40 such windows to a home owner with an older house."

They also try to deal with lumber corporations that are members of the Forest Stewardship Council, which promotes responsible forestry practices.

Bill and Joan spend time seeking out sources for special products that big stores may not be willing to find.

For instance, they sell a kind of insulation that uses cotton fibers rather than fiberglass. Fiberglass manufacture uses formaldehyde, and the glass fibers can break down and become airborne, possibly causing respiratory problems. Cotton fibers—the cotton comes from the end of the rolls used in the manufacture of denim—are harmless and take a great deal less energy to produce. Bill says his store was the first on the eastern seaboard to carry this insulation, and their prices are very competitive.

In addition to lumber, paint and hardware, the DeVrieses also sell livestock feed, fertilizers, household items and building supplies such as the Unilock pavers that are stacked outside their front door. These pavers, which can also be used for retaining walls, decorative edging, seating and firepits, don't use cement, yet are so strong that heavy trucks can drive on them. Unlike asphalt paving, Unilock pavers let water seep into the earth and replenish the aquifer. DeVries is one of the few local stores where these pavers can be bought.

The current economic downturn has affected the business to some degree, both Joan and Bill say.

Though the bulk of their contractor sales was always for renovations rather than new construction, those sales are now almost exclusively for remodeling and repairs.

With contractors having to adapt and market themselves in new ways because of the economy, Bill decided to start educational seminars for them about a year a half ago. The response has been excellent. So far, the seminars have dealt with such issues as mold and mildew, new product information and new building codes. The building code meeting, at which local building inspector Tom Carmody and state inspector Gordon Bailey also spoke, lasted for three hours. The contractors who attended agreed that this was exactly what they needed to understand the complicated, newly amended codes and how they apply to their work.

The seminars are held in the mornings during the winter or early spring,

usually a slow time for builders, either in the upper office of DeVries Building Supply or at Town Hall. An upcoming seminar will deal with asbestos and lead in the home.

Joan and Bill, who now live in Taconic, CT, agree that though they have weathered other economic storms, this one is unique. But they are hopeful that they will be able to continue serving the local community for many more years. They recently purchased a house adjacent to their business for storage and to insure that they have a usable driveway in case the railroad changes their right of way.

"We aren't a big box store," Joan says, "but people don't have to travel far to get to us. We may not have everything, but we usually have what they need or we'll order it for them. People can also see what we have on our website, www.devriesbuildingsupply.com."

—Judith Schumer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

What's It? Night. Fri., Jan. 9, 7:30pm. Society member and past-president Chris Coenen will lead the audience in a quest to identify all types of objects brought from near and far. Dig out that item that's been sitting in your closet or on a shelf, the one whose use you just can't figure out. Free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served. At Dewey Hall.

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program. Sun., Jan. 18, 2pm. Join the Historical Society and the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library for an educational and fun-filled family program in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Learn about this legendary man and how he came to have a holiday in his name! Music and refreshments. At the Library.

Valentine's Day Program. On Fri., Feb. 13, John-Arthur Miller will do a program on colonial and civil war songs, with an emphasis on love songs, in honor of Valentine's Day.

KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

Bowling. Kiwanis has had a busy two months in November and December. Our annual three-weekend Bowling Tournament at the Cove Lanes in Great Barrington concluded on Nov. 16. Jim and Theresa Collingwood were in charge of the Kiwanis volunteers and Kiwanis president Patricia Hardisty furnished the 50/50 raffle second prize "goodie" baskets for the 11 sessions.

Holiday gifts. Members purchased, packed and shipped over 70 Shoebox Gifts for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child campaign. Our presents go to needy youngsters in Africa. David Smith, Sr. has taken care of supplying the turkeys and vegetables to the Sheffield Food Pantry for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The club also supports Community Action South with a check.

Denise Rueger secured seven Adopt-a-Child names for our holiday gift buying this year. The shoppers with Denise were Phyllis Pickert, Sherry Johnson, Marge Kirchner, Jane Berger and Laurie Britton.

Winter clothes drive. Kiwanis joined with the Berkshire Record and KMart to launch the "Warm the Children" campaign in the Southern Berkshires. Just over \$6,000 has been raised and nearly 50 children from the area have been able to purchase new winter clothing at KMart in Great Barrington. Each child was allowed \$80 for spending while Kiwanis mentors met with a parent on shopping day. The bills will be paid from the special tax-exempt fund by the Kiwanis Club.

Nuts. The annual sale of gourmet nuts is drawing to a close. Two sizes of canister were offered this year: a one-pound tin for \$10 or a 3.2-pound can for \$20.

Truck raffle. We are in the middle of our annual Schol-

arship Truck Raffle. Chances for the 2009 GMC Sierra truck sell for \$50 each. Every Kiwanis member has tickets. Several merchants in Sheffield and Great Barrington are also selling them. You can order by mail: send a check to Sheffield Kiwanis, PO Box 683, Sheffield, MA 01257. The drawing will be held at The Bridge restaurant on Valentine's night. Second prize is \$1,500 and third place is \$500. All proceeds from this event go directly into the Kiwanis Scholarship Endowment Fund.

New clubs. Two new clubs have been formed as affiliates of Kiwanis. Cathy Finkle has formed a K-Kids group at the Muddy Brook Elementary School in Great Barrington. Denise Rueger has spearheaded the development of a local Aktion Club, which is the Kiwanis group for adults living with disabilities. Several Kiwanians from the Sheffield Club and neighboring groups have canvassed the Pittsfield area recently in an attempt to charter a Kiwanis Club in that city. The process is still in progress.

Pancake breakfast. The annual Kiwanis pancake breakfast is set for Jan. 18. This year there will be a Breakfast Extravaganza Buffet served from 10am to 1pm at the Mount Everett High School cafeteria on Berkshire School Rd. The Buffet is co-sponsored by the Mount Everett chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). The breakfast benefits teachers at local schools, who receive grants for items not funded by the school district. Tickets are \$8 each, \$4 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any Kiwanis member. Contact Joe Todd at 229-0441 or email at todd116@roadrunner for further information.

—Dick Goodwin

WINTER AT THE COBBLE

Winter is a great time to get outdoors at Bartholomew's Cobble. In winter, you can get a good view of the rock formations and large trees that the Cobble is known for. Along the river you'll find a variety of winter ducks and bald eagles. Climb Hurlburt's Hill for a great view and some good sledding. Join a guided walk to explore winter birds, tracks, and trees. (Depending on conditions, you may need ice grippers for your boots, or you may do better on snowshoes or skis.)

Come by any Saturday to check out the natural history displays and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate. Admission is free for Sheffield residents, though donations are gratefully accepted. No dogs are allowed at the Cobble. Directions and a full calendar of events for the Berkshires can be found at www.thetrustees.org. Volunteers are always welcome.

—Tammi Coffin



Trustees of Reservations Ranger Rene Wendell, right, leading one of the Cobble's winter bird walks.

COBBLE WRITERS' GROUP

A nature-inspired writing group begins this winter at Bartholomew's Cobble on the second Sunday of each month at the visitor's center. Sessions combine outdoor walking with indoor writing. Emerging and experienced writers of poems, songs, memoirs, essays and fiction are welcome! The group will be facilitated by local writing instructor and poet Pauline Clarke with Trustees of Reservations naturalist Tammi Coffin. They will share techniques for tuning into moment and place with the senses and the imagination.

Former *New York Times* nature columnist Hal Borland lived just down the road from Bartholomew's Cobble, and many of his fine pieces of writing center around the hills, forests, fields, and river of the Weatogue Valley that this group of writers will explore. It is a place of great interest and beauty, with winter ducks and eagles appearing along the river, the tracks of bobcat and coyote in the fields, and some very large trees.

Clarke holds a Masters Degree in Writing from Vermont College. From 1990-2005, she published a column of nature-related and local color essays in the *Berkshire Record*. She is a writing tutor and has taught writing workshops through Berkshire Community College. Tammi Coffin, M.A., has led nature-inspired writing workshops for Inkberry, The Thoreau Society, Massachusetts State Parks, and National Fish & Wildlife.

The cost of the writing group is by donation to The Trustees of Reservations. The group will meet Jan. 11, Feb. 8, and Mar. 8 from 1-4pm. To learn more or to register, contact Tammi at The Trustees of Reservations at 413-298-3239 x3003 or send an e-mail to tcoffin@ttor.org.

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE EVENTS

Hot chocolate Saturdays

Saturdays through Mar., 11am-4:00pm. Climb Hurlburt's Hill, then slip, slide, sled, ski, or trek to the Visitor's Center for free hot drinks. Members and Sheffield Residents: Free. Nonmembers: Free with admission.

Birds along the river

Sat., Jan. 24, 2-3:30pm. Enjoy a walk with a naturalist to look for the colorful winter ducks and eagles often seen in the winter. Members \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers \$6; family \$15. Please pre-register.

Wildlife tracks and signs

Sat., Feb. 14, 2-3:30pm. Join a naturalist to search for the

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm (closed Sundays and Mondays, Dec. to March). From Rt. 7 in the center of Sheffield, travel south and turn right on Rt. 7A and follow for

tracks of coyote, bobcat, wild turkey and the other animals who seek out the Cobble at this time of year. Members \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers \$6; family \$15. Please pre-register.

Big trees of the Cobble

Sat., Mar. 7, 2-3:30pm. There are some huge trees here. Enjoy them on a two-mile hike or snowshoe. Members \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers \$6; family \$15. Please pre-register.

Coming this spring

Hal Borland's Vernal Equinox, Mar. 21. Life in the Vernal Pools, Apr. 18. Guided Dusk Walk, Apr. 18. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and Tea, May 10. Wild Edibles Extravaganza, May 16.

0.5 mile. Turn right on Rannapo Rd. and follow for 1.5 mile. Turn right on Weatogue Rd. to the entrance and parking on the left. Regular admission is free for members of the Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 per adult, \$1 per child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email bcobble@ttor.org.



A hike at Bartholomew's Cobble in the snow: enjoying a guided winter walk on the Ledges Trail.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Workshop for landowners and landscape consultants

Join the Mass Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program and The Nature Conservancy for a presentation on the Landowner Incentive Program. The program provides financial and technical assistance to landowners interested in restoring and maintaining wildlife habitat on their property. By sharing costs 75/25 percent with landowners, the Landowner Incentive Program encourages the management of wildlife habitat, conservation of natural communities and species-at-risk, and protects our natural heritage. Owners or managers of any privately owned or municipally owned land (including land trusts, conservation organizations, and municipalities) are eligible to apply.

Landscape companies, consultants and contractors will also have a chance to learn how they can assist clients in applying for program funding for land restoration.

The program is a great opportunity

for landowners to receive technical and financial assistance to help them manage their property. It will explain the threats to this land and how the grant program works. In the Berkshires, The Nature Conservancy has identified invasive species as one of the largest threats to the Berkshire lands and eco-system.

This workshop is the first level of the technical support available to landowners and consultants, which allows time for other assistance before the grants are due later in the year.

Speakers will address how the grant application process works as well as when and how to apply to the program. The free presentation will take place at the Bushnell-Sage Library on Sat., Mar. 14, at 10am. The hour-long presentation is free, open to the public and will be followed by time for questions and refreshments. For more information visit www.nature.org/Berkshire or call 229-0232 x229.

—Allison Lasso

Submissions and suggestions can be sent to sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257.




SERVING
BRUNCH
STARTING IN
JANUARY



SPA TREATMENTS AND
LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS
IN THE COUNTRY

ROUTE 57, NEW MARLBORO, MA
413 229 7501
MEPALBERKSHIRES.COM


CAMPO DE' FIORI

Uncommon Home & Garden



from harvest to holiday

1815 N. Main St., Rte. 7 Sheffield, MA
413-528-1857 open daily 10-5

**KWIK
PRINT**
INCORPORATED

From while-you-wait duplicating
to web offset printing...

Color Copies • Fax Services • Laminating
Photocopies • Resumes • Spiral Binding

Books • Brochures • Business Cards
Envelopes • Flyers • Letterheads • Menus
Newspapers • Newsletters • NCR/Carbonless Forms
Posters • Programs • Tickets • Wedding Invitations

Typesetting/Graphic Design • Mac and PC Compatible
Barcoded Mailing Services

COLOR COPIES

413/528-2885 Fax: 413/528-9220
35 Bridge St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30 Sat. 9:00 -12:00

SHEFFIELD TREE PROJECT

The Sheffield Tree Project held its annual work day Nov. 8. The group planted one last, central tree at Town Hall, a *Quercus imbricaria*, or shingle oak. This tree is related to our native red oak, but more common in the Midwest and Upper South. The Tree Project is experimenting with trees that are hardy in the region and that may become more common in the Northeast. As oaks go, the shingle oak is an excellent street tree.

The Tree Project also pruned 18 trees and mulched 19, mostly along Route 7 in the center of town. The work will help guarantee that these trees grow straight, tall and healthy.

The group is currently applying to the National Arbor Day Foundation to designate Sheffield as a "Tree City USA." In coming months it will be working with students to develop the cooperative nursery at the Mount Everett High School campus and continuing with pruning and plantings. "We hope to see you on April 25 for our annual Arbor Day celebration," said Tom Ingersoll, the group's president.

In 2008, with trees, in-kind donations of skilled labor, volun-



Will Conklin prunes a tree on the Sheffield Green.

teer hours and other materials, the Sheffield Tree Project brought some \$10,000 in added value to Sheffield's "community forest." That's above and beyond the budget of the town tree warden, which for 2008 was only \$8,000. The Tree Project relies on community support to keep going. Contributions are tax-deductible. For further information, visit www.sheffieldtreeproject.org.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

October

- 1 William D. & Paula D. Hall to Michael St. John and Jennifer L. Stevens, property at 23 Old Mill Pond Rd., \$342,000.
- 1 Annelies Shea, R. Inge Caperilla to Skye, LLC, property at 238 Main St., \$310,000.
- 6 Sara P. Love to Gregory R. Goewey, property at 206 Root Ln., \$120,000.
- 10 Faith Baptist Church of Great Barrington, Inc., to Covered Bridge Lane, LLC, property at 640 North Main St., \$329,500.
- 17 William P. Clark, Robert S. Clark, Ruth LaPrise and JoAnn Landis to Linda H. Keller, property at Home Rd., \$140,000.
- 17 Arthur J. and Regina A. Simpson to Carrie J. Teret, property at 1560 Barnum St., \$375,000.
- 24 Walter N. Scott to Susan Margolin, property at 405 S. Undermountain Rd., \$480,000.
- 30 Berkshire Building Company to Highland Nominee Realty Trust, property at Redwood Lane, \$15,000.
- 30 Patsy M. Renzullo to Deborah & Dustin A. Hewins, property at Sycamore Terrace, \$10,000.

- 30 Berkshire Building Company to Deborah & Dustin A. Hewins, property at Sycamore Terrace, \$10,000.

November

- 6 Pauline Wright to Jeffrey D. Watson and Sierra C. King, property at 407 Salisbury Rd., \$139,000.
- 14 Keith B. Wilkinson to Kevin M. Learnard and Bernadette A. Fedell, property at 1166 Home Rd., \$183,000.
- 21 LaSalle Bank National Association to Robert P. and Virginia R. Butler, property at 362 Shunpike Rd., \$236,000.
- 24 Shaun D. Grover to Steven T. and Nancy G. Bernstein, property at 53 West Rd., \$775,000.
- 26 Susan and Alison K. Austin to Daniel Lanoue and Kristin Finnerty, property at Root Lane, \$67,000.

December

- 11 Andrea C. Doucette (estate of Doris C. Floyd) to William E. Jr. and Maria Reno, property at 349 South Main St., \$235,000.

FIRE LOG—Rick Boardman, Chief

- Oct. 24 9:50am. Tractor trailer over guard rails. 10:42am back in service.
- Oct. 25 9:41pm. Hiker rescue on Mt. Washington. 2:25am back in service.
- Oct. 26 8:19am. Assist Great Barrington Fire Dept. at Fairview Hospital. 8:30am back in service.
- Oct. 26 5:00pm. Search for lost hiker at Race Brook. 8:18pm back in service.
- Oct. 27 7:51pm. Search for Lost Hiker at Race Brook. 9:15pm back in service.
- Nov. 1 12:05pm. Assist Police with accident at Rt.7 and Clayton Rd. 1:05pm back in service.
- Nov. 3 3:30pm. Transformer fire at Rt.7 and Kellogg Rd. 4:07pm back in service.
- Nov. 6 4:01pm. Smoke detector at Sheffield Plastics. 4:21pm back in service.
- Nov. 7 1:55pm. Electric fire at 91 Frederick Lane. 2:38pm back in service.

- Nov. 8 12:08am. Alarm at Christ Church. 12:24am back in service.
- Nov. 8 6:49pm. Search for lost person. 2:17am back in service.
- Nov. 9 6:32am. Resume search for lost person. 8:29am back in service.
- Nov. 9 1:37pm. Accident at Lime Kiln Rd. 3:03pm back in service.
- Nov. 14 2:56pm. Lost, injured hiker at Race Brook. 3:23pm back in service.
- Nov. 15 2:12am. CO Detector on Elm Ct. 2:31am back in service.
- Dec. 9 7:16pm. Chimney fire on Rannapo Rd. 8:03pm back in service.
- Dec. 12 6:57pm. Assist auto accident (rollover). 8:16pm back in service.
- Dec. 13 8:38pm. Faulty detector at Mt. Everett High School. 9:10pm back in service.
- Dec. 22 5:55pm. Lifting assistance at 9 Cactus Lane. 6:30pm back in service.



Calendar Page

January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 9 What's It Night, 7:30pm, Dewey Hall (p. 19)
- 12 Symposium on aging, 2:30pm, Library (p. 9)
- 18 MLK Day program, 2pm, Library (p. 19)
- 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY observed
- 20 INAUGURATION DAY
- 26 CHINESE NEW YEAR

February

- 2 Folk music, 7:30pm, Dewey Hall (p. 4)
- 12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
- 14 Gilder book talk, 2pm, Library (p. 9)
- 13 Historical Society Valentine's Day program (p. 19)
- 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
- 15 **Sheffield Times deadline for events and ads**
- 16 PRESIDENTS' DAY observed
- 22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
- 28 Land Trust panel on green energy for homeowners, 3pm, Dewey Hall (p. 10)

March

- 7 Folk music, 7:30pm, Dewey Hall (p. 4)
- 8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
- 14 Landowner Incentive Program talk, 10am, Library (p. 21)

See also the listings for Sheffield Kiwanis (p. 19)
and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 20)

THE SHEFFIELD TIMES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP PUBLISHING!

Donations are tax-deductible.

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1st, 3rd" indicates meetings on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays

Mondays:

- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (2nd only for winter)
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, Tues. 7am-12pm
- Council on Aging, 5pm, 2nd
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
- Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1st

Thursdays:

- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 3pm-6 pm
- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
- * Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- * Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd

Friday:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7-10am

Saturdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3rd

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES, YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

I want to support the Sheffield Times! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of _____, made payable to the Sheffield Association, PO Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

Name: _____
(as you would like it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address: _____
(where you would like issues mailed to you)

- ☐ I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous
- ☐ I'd like to get more involved with the Sheffield Times
- ☐ I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____

The Sheffield Times is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. We will mail issues for a year to everyone who makes a donation unless you tell us otherwise. Please check here if you do not want issues mailed to you: ☐
Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Thanks to all our loyal and generous supporters! If we missed you in this issue, we'll catch you in the next.

Richard & Pamela Armstrong
Frederick & Dorothy Bangs
Trumbull Barrett
Irmgard Bartzsch
Arthur & Betty Batacchi
Gregory & Laura Batch
Teresa Bellizzi
Blanche & Charles Bennett
Berkshire Book Company
Anne Marie & Jonathan Berger
Andrew & Louise Fay Bergman
Berkshire Choral Festival
Pamela Bloodworth
Joan Brooks
William Browne
Awilda Buchholz
Carlson Propane
Edwin & Barbra Carr
Evelyn & Marvin Casivant
Peter Chemeff & Hester Velmans
Walter and Ursula Cliff
Kent S. Clow III Trust
Baukje & Noel Cohen
Sally Cook
Dick Coon Construction Company
Carol Cramer
Dorothy Crockett
Eleanor & Valmore Cross
Jean & Kevin Curtis
Jean Curtiss
Robert & Ann Dean
Dwight & Nancy Dellert
Anne & Kerry Douglas
John & Audrey Downie

Francis Eastburn & Kelley Bressette
Branch & Margit Elam
Peter & Pat Elsbach
Barbara Fletcher
Inez Flinn
Bruce & Marcia Fowle
Elaine Freedman
Barry & Suzan Friedberg
Benno Friedman
Natalie Funk
GHI Sign Service, Inc.
Bernard & Claude Ghitman
Ruth Gillette
Michael Giulian
Helaine & David Gold
Millicent Gravel & Marsha Altemus
Leonard Graziano & William Grief
Wray Gunn
Dorothy Haller
Claire Height
Elizabeth Hobby & Ken Rueger
Anne and Art Hyatt
Keith Hyatt & Kim Beattie
Charles & Mary Joch Jr.
Joseph & Christine Kelley
Kingsley & Sarah Kelly
Jeanne Kiefer
Edward & Nancy Knapp
Col. John & Dorothy Koneazny
Judith & Richard Lasky
Allison Lasso
Philip & Susan Lebowitz
Robert Ledlie

Thomas & Susanna Leigh
Ronald & Ida Leonard
John & Carolyn Longdyke
Robert & Susan MacVeety
David & Nancy Macy
Barbara & Norman Margolis
Mark Massini
C. Twiggs Myers
Antonio J & Marian Malanti
Phoebe McBee
James & Catherine Miller
Howard James & Melissa Noe
Richard & Laraine Novak
Elisabeth O'Connor
Dawn O'Neil's Family Child Care
Kathy Orlando
Thomas Orlando
Adolph & Jane Pekarul
Francis & Correll Pezzee
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Phyllis Pickert
Louis & Tammy Pipa
Peter & Aurora Pshenishny
Ray's Auto Parts (John D. Jasman)
RBC Inc.
Joseph H. & Carol F. Reich Family Fund
Alfred & Doris Richardson
Seymour Robins
Bob & Priscilla Rueger
Kenneth & Naomi Safian
Mark A. Schaffer
Charles & Elizabeth Schmidt
Bernard & Sheila Schneider
Judith Schnurr

Kenneth & Rebecca Schopp
Sebastian's Salon
Joe Seward & Sons Electrical Contracting
The Sheffield Inn
Sheffield Water Company
Myron & Marcia Sheinberg
Evelyn Small
David and Diane Smith Sr.
Kenneth Spencer
Mary Jane & Fred Speyrer
Harold & Vivian Vesta Stalker Sr.
Janet Stanton
Stor-It-All, Inc. (Tanya Riva)
Harriette Sturges
Peter Traub
Janice Tresp
Albert Trocchi
Robert & Carolyn Ullrich
Vito & Christine Valentini
Diana & Henry Vollmer III
John-Arthur & Trudy Weaver Miller
Randy Weinstein
Rene Wendell Jr.
Joan and Thomas Wiehl
John & Marilyn Wightman
Joe Wilkinson Excavating, Inc.
Elsie West
Ron and Veronica Yapple
Thomas & Susan Young III
Alan Zablonksi & Joyce Vandemark
Richard Zimmerman

PRSRT STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SHEFFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 4

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com